

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reproducing a developing apparatus detachably attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus main body, the developing apparatus being designed and for developing a latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, said the developing apparatus having a developing member configured and positioned to develop for developing said the latent image formed on said the electrophotographic photosensitive member, a developer container having a developer containing part containing therein a developer to be used by said the developing member, and provided with a developer supplying opening for supplying the developer contained in said the developer containing part to said the developing member, a supporting member provided on a lengthwise end portion of said the developing apparatus configured and positioned to support for supporting said the developing member, and a developing frame body provided with a developer passing opening for passing therethrough the developer supplied from said the developer supplying opening, and having a joint portion to be joined to said the developer container, and a mounting portion configured and positioned to mount for mounting said the supporting member, the said method comprising:

a supporting member removing step of removing said the supporting member from said the developing frame body;

a developing frame body separating step of separating said the developer container and said the developing frame body from each other in said at the joint portion, and at which at least

a portion of said the mounting portion is removed when said the developer container and said the developing frame body are separated from each other;

a sticking step of sticking a seal member ~~for closing~~ said on the developer supplying opening provided in said the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step to close the developer supplying opening;

a developer refilling step of refilling said the developer containing part provided in said the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step with the developer;

a developing frame body coupling step of coupling said the developer container and said the developing frame body separated at said developing frame body separating step together after said sticking step; and

a supporting member attaching step of attaching said the supporting member removed at said removing step onto at least one of said the developer container and said the developing frame body by the use of a coupling member.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said the developing frame body is joined to said the developer container ~~in~~ said at the joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, said the developer container and said the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a cutter.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said the developing frame body is joined to said the developer container ~~in~~ said at the joint portion by ultrasonic

welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, said the developer container and said the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a laser.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, said the coupling member is mounted with said the supporting member and said the developing frame body sandwiched thereby.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, said the coupling member is mounted with said the supporting member and said the developer container sandwiched thereby.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein said the coupling member is constituted by a U-shaped spring material.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein said the coupling member is constituted by a plate spring material.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said the mounting portion is a boss having a screw hole for attaching said the supporting member by a screw, and at said developing frame body separating step, a portion of said the boss is removed.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said the supporting member has a driving force transmitting device configured and positioned to transmit means for transmitting a driving force to said the developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, said the supporting member is removed from said the developing frame body while holding said the driving force transmitting device means, and at said supporting member attaching step, said the supporting member is attached onto said the developing frame body while holding said the driving force transmitting device means.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said the supporting member has a developing bias contact configured and positioned to contact for contacting with said the developing member and supply supplying a voltage to said the developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, said the supporting member is removed from said the developing frame body while holding said the developing bias contact, and at said supporting member attaching step, said the supporting member is attached onto said the developing frame body while holding said the developing bias contact.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of reproducing a process cartridge detachably attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus main body, said the process cartridge having a developing member configured and positioned to develop for developing a latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, said electrophotographic photosensitive member; a developer container having a developer containing part containing therein a developer to be used by said the developing member, and provided with a developer

supplying opening for supplying the developer contained in said the developer containing part to said the developing member, a supporting member provided on a lengthwise end portion of said the process cartridge and configured and positioned to support for supporting said the developing member, and a developing frame body provided with a developer passing opening for passing therethrough the developer supplied from said the developer supplying opening, and having a joint portion to be joined to said the developer container, and a mounting portion configured and positioned to mount for mounting said the supporting member, the said method comprising:

a supporting member removing step of removing said the supporting member from said the developing frame body;

a developing frame body separating step of separating said the developer container and said the developing frame body from each other in said at the joint portion, and at which at least a portion of said the mounting portion is removed when said the developer container and said the developing frame body are separated from each other;

a sticking step of sticking a seal member for closing on the developer supplying opening provided in the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step to close the developer supplying opening;

a developer refilling step of refilling the developer containing part provided in the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step with the developer;

a developing frame body coupling step of coupling said the developer container and the developing frame body separated at said developing frame body separating step together after said sticking step; and

a supporting member attaching step of attaching the supporting member removed at said removing step onto at least one of said the developer container and said the developing frame body by the use of a coupling member after said developing frame body coupling step.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein said the developing frame body is joined to said the developer container in said at the joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, said the developer container and said the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a cutter.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein said the developing frame body is joined to said the developer container in said at the joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, said the developer container and said the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a laser.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, said the coupling member is mounted with said the supporting member and said the developing frame body sandwiched thereby.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, said the coupling member is mounted with said the supporting member and said the developer container sandwiched thereby.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 or 15, wherein said the coupling member is constituted by a U-shaped spring material.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said the coupling member is constituted by a plate spring material.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein said the mounting portion is a boss having a screw hole for attaching said the supporting member by a screw, and at said developing frame body separating step, a portion of said the boss is removed.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein said the supporting member has a driving force transmitting device configured and positioned to transmit means for transmitting a driving force to said the developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, said the supporting member is removed from said the developing frame body while holding said the driving force transmitting device means, and at said supporting member attaching step, said the supporting member is attached onto said the developing frame body while holding said the driving force transmitting device means.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein said the supporting member has a developing bias contact configured and positioned to contact for contacting with said the developing member and supplying a voltage to said the developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, said the supporting member is removed from said the

developing frame body while having said holding the developing bias contact, and at said supporting member attaching step, said the supporting member is attached onto said the developing frame body while holding said the developing bias contact.